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TO: SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND FULL SENATE

TESTIMONY AGAINST S.B. 783

It has come to light that the War against Marijuana was born in racism, and has been enforced in a racist manner, causing the mass incarceration of young black men in America, and especially Michigan. See "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander JD; and ACLU report "The War on Marijuana In Black and White" This bill would cause patients and caregivers to break the law without intending to, or knowing they had done so, until they find themselves behind bars.

Both possession and use are included in the definition of "medical use" for which patients are provided immunity. This bill would mean that patients couldn't enjoy their immunities in the privacy of their own home. These immunities were intended to protect patients in their employment, driving and housing, but all three of these protections have been squandered at one point or another. The state's dishonest administration of the medical marijuana law, in every branch of government, proves that it lacks the compassion needed to administer such a law in practice.

This State legislature has done nothing but pass laws hostile to the medical marijuana patients and caregivers in this state, including causing a foreseeably chilling effect on doctors, who now must shut down their office for at least half of a day to come say what he already recommended, but now must go through the 4-point definition as if they didn't already know what was a bona fide doctor patient relationship.

Do the right thing and vote no on SB 783 as it disproportionately affects patients of color and those living in poverty, a foreseeable result. Landlords have the power and freedom to contract.

_____   _____
Attorney   Thomas Lavigne   Date